To whom it may concern,

I would like to comment on the propsed settlement in general, and how it relates to Microsoft's monopoly status.

In my opinion, some monopolies are perfectly tolerable. Those such as Power Companies and Water Companies, where 'laying proprietary groundwork' would be too burdonsome to the community to necessitate competition. Imagine competition in Water or Power, each company with it's own lines. In that form, monopolies can be a good thing.

When it comes to Microsoft and technology in general, this groundwork can be reused, and competition can flourish. Microsoft has been found, in prior cases, to have tampered with that groundwork in order to pursue, and/or maintian it's monopoly status. Perhaps the largest example is the Caldera case. Microsoft was accused of purposely ensuring that Microsoft Windows would not run on DR-DOS. At that time, Microsoft Windows was simply a DOS application. Any DOS application would run on any flavor of DOS, be it MS-DOS, IBM-DOS, or DR-DOS. Except in the case of Microsoft Windows, where the application would specifically check the MAKER of the installed DOS, and run based on that alone.

What has happened now, is that Microsoft has extened it's Microsoft Windows application into an OS. Now that Microsoft own the OS itself, it has ensured that Microsoft Windows applications will not run on any other Operating System. This has severely hampered the OS market, because applications must be written twice, or only one platform is chosen. It's obvious that Microsoft Windows would be the OS of choice, because of it's large installed base.

I feel that the proposed settlement must address this issue, for it is the root cause of Microsoft's monopoly, and the method by which this monopoly is abused. Specifically, the Win32 API (API = The 'language' a program talks to the OS in.) should be allowed in competing Operating System's, without undue license restrictions.

WINE is a good example of an attempt to bring that API to Linux. Odin is WINE's counterpart for OS/2. Both of these OS's are competing with Microsoft Windows, and the availability of an alternative Operating System for the average user, would be greatly enhanced if Microsoft were to disclose much of that information to those competitors.

I feel the proposed remedy doesn't touch on application compatibility as

it should, to allow for competition in the marketplace on the desktop level.

Thank you for your time.

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